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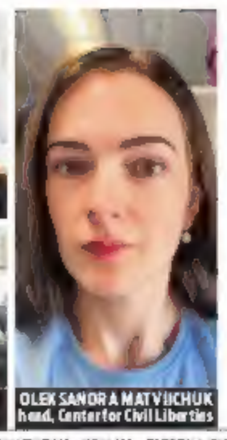

ACTIVIST, NGOs AMONG PEACE NOBEL PICKS TO PRESS PUTIN

In a rebuke to Vladimir Putin, Swedish Academy honours a Belarus activist and two NGOs from Russia and Ukraine. Activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and Ukrainian organisation Center for Civil Liberties are the winners. They have been honoured for their efforts to document war crimes, rights violations and abuse of power. Activist Bialiatsk heads prominent rights group Viasna | P12

Govt to accept panel report on increasing SC/ST reservation

Cabinet meet today; Quota will cross 50% limit set by Supreme Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government on Friday decided to accept the Justice Nagamohan Das Committee's recommendation on increasing the reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and Scheduled Tribes (ST) from 3 to 7 per cent. A special cabinet meeting has been called on Saturday to accept the committee's recommendation. The changes will not adversely impact other communities, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Friday.

After chairing an all-party meeting, where it was unanimously decided to accept the committee's report, Bommai said that it was a long-pending demand. "After this comprehensive report was submitted two years ago, some judgements on reservation have been passed by various courts. We constituted the Justice Subhash Adi committee to look into the report and also the new court orders. It recommended increasing the 50 per cent limit on reservation as mentioned in the Indra Sawhney's case where the Supreme Court has pointed out that increasing reservation in special, extra-merit cases can be considered. We are studying reports from both committees and taking all communities into confidence. We have decided to increase the reservation for SC/STs," he said.

Law Minister JC Madhu Swamy said after the cabinet approves the committee report, it will be placed before the Assembly. "We will discuss in the cabinet as to how to bring it before the House... whether to pass a bill or a resolution," he added.

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KG BALAKRISHNAN-LED PANEL TO STUDY STATUS OF DALIT CONVERTS

The Union government has set up a three-member Commission of Inquiry headed by former Supreme Court Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan to examine the issue of giving Scheduled Caste status to Dalits who converted to religions other than Sikhism and Buddhism. P10

A photo posted by AAP minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Twitter of hundreds of Dalits taking a pledge to convert to Buddhism on October 5, at an event in Delhi

BJP, AAP spar over pledge at Dalit conversion event

AMIT PANDEY @ New Delhi

A video clip of a recent mass conversion of Dalits to Buddhism went viral as Hindu deities were denounced at the event here in the presence of AAP leader and Delhi social welfare minister Rajendra Pal Gautam. Coming as it did ahead of state elections in Gujarat and Haryana, the issue acquired political overtones.

With the issue snowballing, Gautam put out a late-night statement to clear the air and apologise. It came after AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal took a dim view of the controversy.

The clip showed Gautam and others taking a pledge saying, "We will not worship Hindu Gods and Goddesses... I shall have no faith in Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara, nor shall I worship them. I shall have no faith in Rama and Krishna, who are believed to be the incarnation of God..." In his damage limitation exercise, Gautam claimed, "I personally respect all the Gods and the Goddesses and would not even dream of insulting any deity through any action or word of mine."

Raj Ratan Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr BR Ambedkar and the president of Buddhist Society of India, which organised the gathering on Wednesday, was on the dais. Hundreds of Dalit Hindus converted to Buddhism. BSI treasurer ShashiKant Jadhav told *TNIE* that the oath was introduced by Dr BR Ambedkar.

BJP claimed the event was an insult to both Hinduism and Buddhism. BJP MP Manoj Tiwari alleged that Gautam was trying to incite riots through the event. Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta on Friday filed a police complaint against Gautam.

Man lynched in Bengaluru over child-lifting suspicion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A city-based social activist has submitted a petition to the state police chief that the Ramamurthy Nagar police were involved in the death of a 33-year-old mason from Jharkhand. The petitioner said the police picked up the man as he was being beaten up by the public over suspicions of his being a child-lifter. A few hours later, his body was found in the jurisdiction of the neighbouring KR Puram police station. The petition states that as the mason died after being picked up by the police, this amounted to custodial death. Senior officials, however, clarified that the allegations are baseless. Six people have been arrested for allegedly lynching the mason.

The victim, Sanjay Tudu from Jharkhand, was working in Ramamurthy Nagar. He was reportedly beaten up by the mob on September 23 on 1st Cross at Jyothi Puram in Dooravani Nagar under the Ramamurthy Nagar police limits. He was found dead on the footpath in IT1 Colony in KR Puram police limits the next day and a case of unnatural death was registered. Further probe and postmortem findings made the police convert the case from unnatural death to murder on October 6.

V Paramesh, the social activist, submitted the petition on Thursday. He told TNIE that the victim was taken to the Ramamurthy Nagar police station in a Hoysala patrolling vehicle.

"Though the person was assaulted, he was still able to walk and sit in the Hoysala jeep. But a few hours later, his body was found in the neighbouring police station limits. This is nothing but murder. The police have tampered with evidence by misusing their power. Only after the petition was filed, there was some development in the case. The erring police officials need to be punished," he added.

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EXPRESS READ

DA hiked by 3.75% for K'taka govt staffers

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government hiked the Dearness Allowance of state government serving and retired employees by 3.75% with effect from July 2022. It will have an additional financial implication of Rs 1,282 crore.

Abundance of sodium on Moon, finds Chandrayaan-2

Bengaluru: A payload aboard India's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which is orbiting the Moon since August 2019, has for the first time mapped the abundance of sodium on the Moon. The orbiter mapped it using the Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer. P7

4 held for performing puja at heritage site in Bidar

Bidar: The police arrested four people for allegedly barging into a madrasa in Old Bidar city, and performing prayers in the early hours of Thursday. Several people protested in front of the police station, seeking action against those involved. P4

Digital rupee coming soon, on pilot basis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is close to launching a 'sovereign' cryptocurrency to counter the growth of private digital currencies. It will soon begin a pilot launch of digital rupee (e₹) or Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for specific use cases.

The central bank will introduce the digital rupee in a phased manner. "Currently, we are at the forefront of a watershed movement in the evolution of currency that will decisively change the very nature of money and its functions," the RBI said in a statement on Friday.

CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form, and its introduction is expected to offer a range of benefits, such as reduced dependency on cash, lesser overall currency management cost, and reduced settlement risk.

The Central bank issued a concept note on CBDC to create more awareness about the digital rupee.

In the note said the CBDCs will give the public the benefits of virtual currencies while ensuring consumer protection by avoiding the damaging social and economic consequences of private virtual currencies. RBI will issue two types of CBDCs — wholesale and retail.

While retail would be available to all, wholesale CBDC is for the settlement of interbank transfers and related wholesale transactions.

A significant feature of the CBDC is that its offline feature will be beneficial in remote areas because of availability and resilience benefits when power or mobile network is unavailable.

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Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

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Ramanagara	CS (60), CE (60), EC (60), ME & SM (60)
Challakere	CS (60), AI & ML (60), AT (60)
Bidar, Nargund	CS (60), AI & DS (60)
Chamarajanagara, Hassan, Haveri, Huvinahadagali, Karwar, K.R. Pete, Kushalanagar, Raichur	CS (60), CE (60), EC (60), ME(60)

Karnataka Institutes of Technology (KITs)

SKSJTI Bengaluru, Ramanagara, Karwar, K R Pete, Hassan, Haveri and Talakallu GECs are being Upgraded into KITs inline with Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

Chamarajanagara, Huvinahadagali, Kushalanagar, Mosalehosalli, Gangavathi, Challakere and Raichur GECs upgraded under Regional Ecosystem for Technical Excellence (RETE) as Institutes of Technical Excellence

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